

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Kito is thanked for his thoughtful and thorough examination of the subject Patent Application.

Figures 1 and 2 were amended.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 17-20, 22, 26, and 29 were amended.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 13-15, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-33, and 35 are unchanged.

Claims 16 and 34 have been canceled.

1. Drawings

In amended Figures 1 and 2, the previously omitted legend --Prior Art-- has been added.

2. Objection

Reconsideration of the objection to claims 4 and 29 is requested based on the following arguments.

Claims 4 and 29 were amended to clarify the intent of both claims in agreement with the specification on page 20, last paragraph.

Reconsideration of the objection to claim 8 is requested based on the following arguments.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner "That there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.". In claim 1, page 17, line 11 "**.. a CMOS inverter driver, ..**" is claimed, therefore providing an antecedent for "said CMOS inverter driver,.." in claim 8. However, the claim

"a fourth PMOS transistor having its source and drain coupled to said second power supply rail and having its drain coupled to said node A,"
in claim 8 is in error (see patent application, page 19, lines 54-55) and should read:

"a fourth PMOS transistor having its source and drain coupled to said second power supply rail and having its gate coupled to said node A,"
agreeing thus with FIG. 4 and the specification on page 12, lines 16-17.

Reconsideration of the objection to claim 9 is requested based on the following arguments.

Claim 9 was amended to replace "second NMOS" with "first NMOS", as recommended by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for noticing this error.

Reconsideration of the objection to claim 22 is requested based on the following arguments.

Claim 22 was amended to correct the referral to an antecedent.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, is requested, in light of the following arguments.

The claim

"a fourth PMOS transistor having its source and drain coupled to said second power supply rail and having its drain coupled to said node A,"
attributed to claim 12 by the Examiner actually is found only in claim 8 and was corrected as discussed above under Objections. However, the claim

"a sixth PMOS transistor having its source and drain coupled to said second power supply rail and having its drain coupled to said node C,"
in claim 12 is in error (see patent application, page 21, lines 89-90) and should read:

"a sixth PMOS transistor having its source and drain coupled to said second power supply rail and having its gate coupled to said node C,"
agreeing thus with FIG. 5 and the specification on page 14, lines 4-6.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 26-33 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ker (US 5,744,842) in view of Saleh (US 5,991,135) is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Regarding Claim 26: Reconsideration of the rejection of independent claim 26 is requested since claim 26 has been narrowed by bringing objected to claim 34 into claim 26. Claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claims 27 and 28: Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 27 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claims 27 and 28 are also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 29: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 29 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claims 30 and 31: Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 30 and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having

been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claims 30 and 31 are also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 32: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 32 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 33: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 33 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

b) Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-7 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ker (US 5,744,842) in view of Saleh and further in a view of Ker et al. article in IEEE Journal of Solid-State Devices is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Regarding Claim 1: Reconsideration of the rejection of independent claim 1 is requested since claim 1 has been narrowed by bringing objected to claim 16 into claim 1. Claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claims 2 and 3: Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claims 2 and 3 are also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 4: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 4 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claims 5, 6 and 21 are also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 7: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 7 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

c) Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 8 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ker in view of Saleh, Ker et al. article in IEEE Journal of Solid-State Devices and further in a view of Voldman (US 6,404,269) is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 8 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Regarding Claim 10, Ker et al. article in IEEE Journal: Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since

claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 10 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

Reconsideration of the objection to claims 9, 11-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claims 9, 11-15 and 17-25 are also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Objected to dependent claim 16 was merged into independent claim 1. Claim 16 was subsequently canceled. The objection is therefore moot.

Reconsideration of the objection to claim 34 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since objected to dependent claim 34 was merged into independent claim 26. Claim 34 was subsequently canceled. The objection is therefore moot.

Reconsideration of the objection to claim 35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is requested since claim 26 having been narrowed is now believed patentable. Therefore dependent claim 35 is also believed patentable. The rejection is therefore moot.

5. Conclusion

We have reviewed the related art references made of record and feel that none of these suggest the present claimed invention.

Appl. No. 09/938,040
Amdt. dated Oct. 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of Aug. 6, 2003

All claims are now believed to be allowable.

It is requested that should Examiner Kitov not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner please call the undersigned attorney at (845) 452-5863, to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SBA', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg # 37,761

Attachment

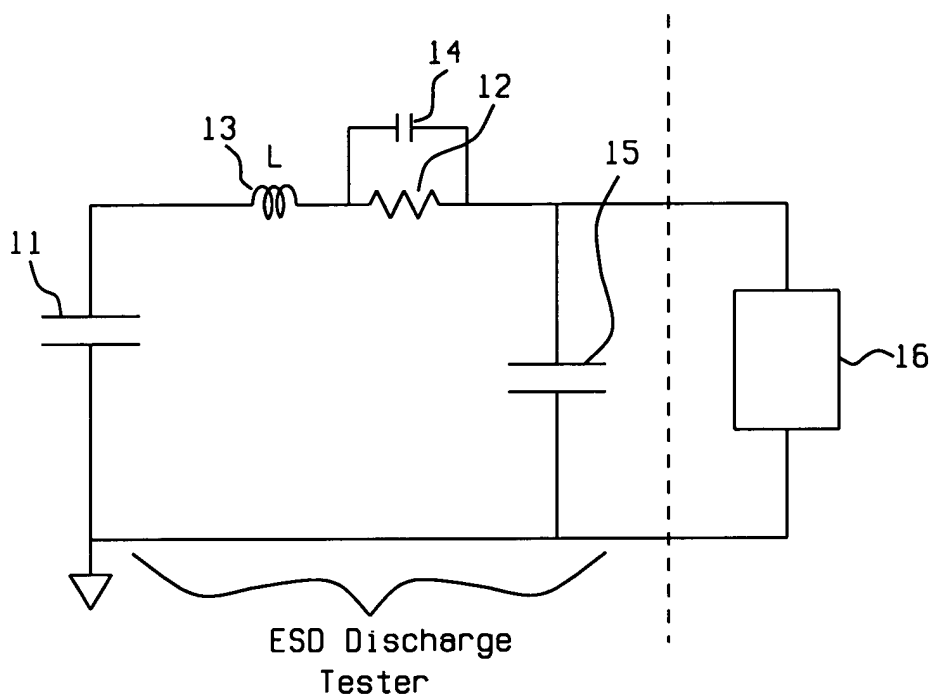


FIG. 1 – Prior Art

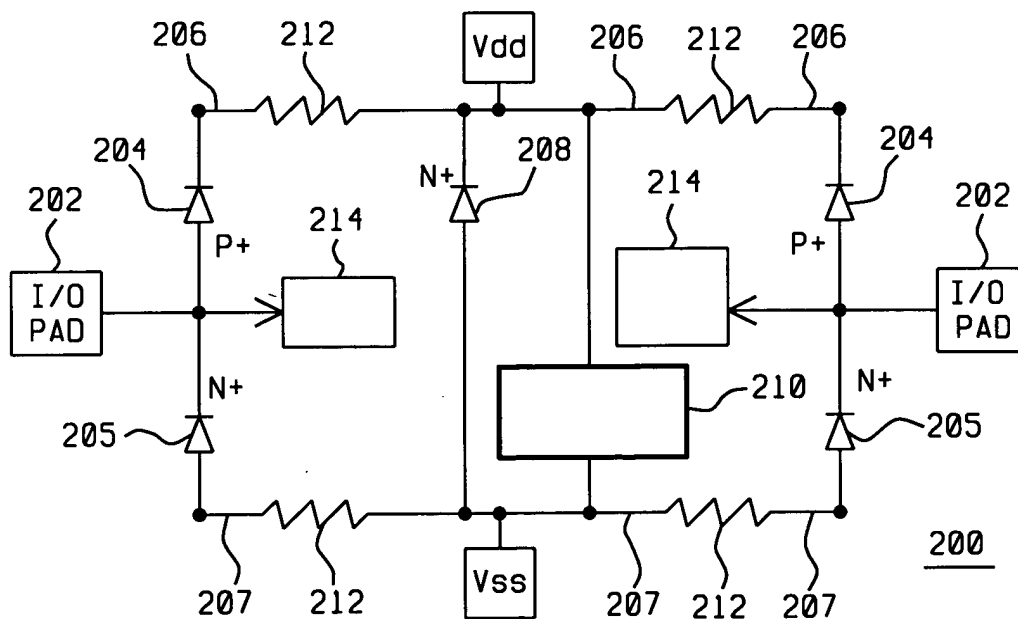


FIG. 2 - Prior Art